Bulletin

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND

FEBRUARY 1, 1925.

Sword in Hand

"Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand."
—Psalm 149: 6.

THE saints are those who have been purified through the merit of Christ Jesus, begotten and anointed of the holy spirit. All such who are now performing their divinely-given commission are trying to comfort others that mourn by pointing them to the precious promises and provisions of God's Word. While pursuing their vocation as saints, they will have many trials and will sometimes be in sorrow and distress. But the more faithfully they perform their duties, the greater will be their joy.

Only One Message Worthy

The sorrows of the world are ever on the increase and the distress and perplexity is such that men know not where to turn. Many of these earnestly desire to be comforted. If perchance they see a person who is joyful and singing the praises of Jehovah, it is such an unusual thing that their attention may be attracted thereto.

The colporteur or the class worker who goes forth in his labor of love is not singing his own praises; but the high praises of God are in his mouth. He delights to honor Jehovah and the Lord Jesus. But how can he best do this? This scripture answers: By having the two-edged sword in his hand.

The sword is a symbol of the message of the kingdom. Hand is a symbol of power. The sword in hand, then, represents the saint as using the power with which he is endowed, and as set forth in God's Word, to Jehovah's glory. The sword is sharp in the hearts of those who are opposed to God's kingdom. To those who are blinded by the adversary and who are really seeking the light, the sword cuts away the covering which holds their eyes, that they may see some of the beauties of the divine plan and to that extent have their hearts comforted.

Comfort for Perplexed

The year 1925 holds many sorrows and much joy. There are many to be comforted, and few who are the comforters. Let each one, then, ask himself: Am I doing my part by bearing the message of consolation represented by the sword to those who desire to be comforted? If you are not, then take the message of the truth, which is sharper than any two-edged sword, and go forth to the work.

If you are engaged in using this blessed instrument, rejoice more in your heart, and again rejoice, because telling forth the message in a joyful manner is your strength.

It will be observed in the context that this honor have all the saints. Would it, then, not necessarily follow that all who are anointed of the Lord but who fail or refuse to wield the sword of the spirit, the message of truth, are missing the greatest of all honors?

1925 Opportunities

As each one of the anointed scans the field and beholds so much work to be done, may the desire to enter it increase; and as he hurries forth to declare the high praises of God, wielding his two-edged sword, his joy will greatly increase and his

strength in the Lord will increase, as well.

During the past year, 1924, there were fewer workers in the field than during 1923, but the result was greater. Thus is demonstrated that from him who hath, but who does not increase, opportunity is taken away; and to those who are faithful, their opportunities are increased. With the beginning of 1925 may every consecrated child of the Lord search his heart earnestly to see whether he finds there the desire to enter more fully into the Lord's service. If he has not the opportunity, pray the Lord to open the way. If the opportunity is open, enter quickly and seize it. In such the Lord has pleasure. He will beautify them with his salvation, and honor them with increased opportunities of service here, and prepare them for shining forth more brilliantly in the kingdom beyond. It is not the work itself that develops the Christian; but it is the joyful enthusiasm with which he undertakes it, the real, sincere desire to be a glory to the Lord and to do good unto his fellow creatures.

METHODS OF WORK

That you might share with us the encouragement there is in finding the general feeling among the friends, as well as the general attitude of the public toward our work, we are publishing herewith letters from as widely distributed points throughout the country as we have space. To find that there is this general feeling toward the Truth is encouraging. It means to the workers that they have a more sympathetic element of the people to approach; for when people have begun to think to the extent of being thoroughly dissatisfied with the conditions that exist in the churches, it is encouraging.

Predicament of People

But what is before the workers is to meet the people and point them to the Bible. The people in general are dissatisfied with what exists, and not knowing where to turn for a better understanding, make the mistake of thinking that the Bible is to be blamed for the faulty views of Christians. Therefore they are little interested in anything that seems to be of a religious nature. This probably accounts for their not seeking out the meetings throughout the country as we might expect. They have probably concluded that all churches are wrong. It is in this regard that there is a famine in the land. Not knowing where to go to seek food, people become famished and give themselves over to feeding on other things, or at least amusing themselves or absorbing themselves in amusements and pleasures. Surely, in the heart there is an undertone of reverence and much regard for the Lord and his Word.

Finding the Hungry

To reach these people directly it is necessary to take the message to their homes. If the message is not taken directly to their homes it is given but general notice, and is looked upon as just so much of a religious movement. The necessity of taking the message to their homes brings more directly to our attention the vast amount of work before the workers. Since those who are in the field report conditions such as the following letters mention, it brings us face to face with the opportunities there are before us this year for activity, opportunities to go forth and feed these people who are hungry, by talking to them directly about matters which you know they are interested in but which they have already despaired of really understanding.

Complete Library Placed

We believe that the work of the canvassers is the most direct method of reaching the people; for it places in their hands a complete set of STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES. In all of our activities, whether the work of the radio or that of public meetings or other means of witnessing, the primary motive is to place the complete set of STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES and HARP BIBLE STUDY Course in the homes of the people. The worker, then, by going from door to door, approaches people directly with the frankness of a friend by letting them have what advantage there may be in talking and propounding questions; for people naturally feel more at ease and have greater liberty in their homes.

1925, then, should see one of the largest years for witnessing for the Truth, because the opportunity exists; and our privilege then is to see whether we take advantage of more opportunities than we did in other years. The work in years heretofore has been mainly to go out and incite interest in the Truth, whereas at present the work is mainly to go out and satisfy the interest that exists. To satisfy this interest would be not only to give the people the Truth which you might be able to bear to them in a few minutes' talk, but to leave in their homes something that they should refer to throughout the remaining days of the year.

15 Minutes Yearly

Regardless of how many times the territory has been covered, if we sum up the time we actually spend, it amounts on the average to about one witness to each individual each year, and that witness generally confined to from fifteen to thirty minutes' time. Though an impression was made the first call or the second call, and though probably no sale was obtained at the third call, yet the worker should remember that the people have likely forgotten what was said to them before; and each time talk from the viewpoint that what you have to say is new, because they have not been progressing with the times and watching the fulfilment of prophecy. Therefore it is well for the workers to keep in mind that each call is a witness for

the Truth, and though it is recanvassing territory yet it is bearing to them a new angle that events have given to you, events which are of interest to you but which puzzle the people.

It might be well to point out to the people that you had called before but that you wish now to place in their hands something that they may use to satisfy their interest from time to time as questions arise that puzzle them. We believe that a strenuous effort should be put forth this year to place literature in as many homes as possible, because of the prominence of 1925 in the Bible and the necessity for the people having something that will comfort them—the Lord's mind and plan, and what he may deem wise to bring forth during this year. 1925 will be a year of large witnessing; and we urge that all take advantage of the conditions in the field and the opportunities that are before us.

MONTANA

"While the weather has ranged from 15 to 36 degrees below zero for eight days, I have lost only two days from work; and I wish to say that I see quite a difference in the attitude of the people since we put out the Indictments. I overlapped one street, going to four houses that I had canvassed some time before, and took an order at every place. Yet they had refused me when I canvassed them before the Indictments were put out."

Sister Ida Parsons, Colporteur, Montana.

OHIO

"I hear many nice remarks about the *Broadcaster*. Everybody is so pleased with it; and they read every word of it, too. Some carry it to their neighbors to read, and discuss the sermonette and items. I believe that because it is a brief little three-minute paper every word is read. The sermonettes are so clear and convincing."

Sister L. M. Pinkerton, Colporteur, Ohio.

WISCONSIN

"The books sold were almost exclusively sold to Catholics; we find that quite a few have left the Catholic church. Though very poor seemingly, yet they buy something even if it is only a small booklet. Many say that they would like to buy if they only could. One lady bought a HARP and two booklets, and said that she appreciated the call very much and thanked me for coming."

Sister Adolphine Lass, Colporteur, Wisc.

KENTUCKY

"A lady told me that there seemed to be a longing in the people's hearts for something comforting, but that they did not get what they should at the churches. I do want to be a channel through which the Lord can pass his refreshing Truth to others, and not to be a dam."

Sister Jeannette Smith, Colporteur, Ky.

ILLINOIS

"It seems that people are increasingly ready to listen; and they venture the thought that someone will have to take hold of earth's affairs or something will have to come, the way things are going—that it cannot go on this way much longer. They seem glad to know that Jesus is here to do just that.

"A Slav-Catholic with a mind of her own told me that a former Catholic priest of this place said that he was tired of fooling the people and putting their money so ruthlessly gotten into his pocket, and he left the Catholic church and went into a New York bank.

"To those who say they have their Bible and that is enough, I say that the books are not offered to them to take the place of their Bible; but that just as present-day conveniences make it possible to get at different worldly topics of interest, so the books set in an orderly, convenient way the things now due to be understood, so that just as in regard to other things we are enabled to the more quickly get at any feature of the Word which we wish to investigate or study. I get them to admit first that such is the case in other studies, in this day of hurry; and then they are ready to see that it is not unreasonable to expect Bible study to be made easier, especially as they know that the light is to increase, as the perfect day approaches, and more light means ability to see more plainly, and these conveniences assist. Many people here are suffering for lack of work; necessities rise in price. Flour has risen in price ninety cents in three months on 48 lb. sacks. Bacon and other things have risen to correspond, and little four-room houses rent from $25 to $40.

"I owed ten hours' work on the week before on account of illness. Have made it all up, excepting 45 minutes; so am reporting one day extra on the card, and will finish and report the other next week."

"I found that nearly every one asked me right in, and I had a good chance to witness. People have me spotted evidently; for I was one of a few who were out. They said: 'That woman who goes around canvassing must find it rather cold.' Looking out at the havoc of the storm and seeing me, they think; 'Millions Now Living Will Never Die is what she is around telling.' This helps to keep it in their minds.

"Have been meeting so many Catholics. I found one Catholic lady's gold wedding ring, and took it in to her and gave her the canvass. She asked questions, and said that she thought the Truth was beautiful, and acknowledged that the folderol and formalism of Catholicism was bondage. But she did not take a book. Another Catholic lady surprised me by taking one. But it is rather surprising how they will drink the Truth in and let you speak against their doctrines without a protest; that is, the majority of

them will. I tell them that Catholics are getting awake to their God-given rights; that I have Catholic relatives myself, but that my own father could not tell me that there is hell fire; etc. Thus I try to get them on a confidential sympathetic foundation; and by so doing I find that I can tell them many things in a nice way, and it is certain that they will think."

Sister Nellie Elliott, Colporteur, Ill.

NORTH CAROLINA

"We are finding that the *Broadcaster* is doing a very efficient work here. The territory is easier to canvass where it has been used, and it helps also to crystallize interest which has heretofore been latent.

"The Indictment seemed to sink in like a gentle rain. We hope soon to be more regularly at work after a few more weeks, when the rough weather passes."

Sister Bertha Eller, Colporteur, N. C.

MASSACHUSETTS

"We experimented this last week with the idea of evening calls on the *Broadcaster* names of people who were out during the day. We found only two who were not at home; and out of eight canvasses made we sold two HARPS and one DG.

"In my own canvassing I have found that one of the strongest selling points is the set of Quiz Cards. I take the whole set with me, and demonstrate with them. I have marked several questions on each card to facilitate locating them; and I usually read quite a few of the questions, interspersing them with remarks appropriate to the individual. Then I explain that these cards, coming each week, emphasize the most important points in the assignments which they have just read. Displaying the whole set of Quiz Cards seems to afford them a better comprehension of the extent of the Course than does a mere verbal description. Many of the class workers have adopted this method and they report increased interest in their canvass."

Director at Lawrence, Mass.

CALIFORNIA

"One sister who is a deaf mute sold seven Courses last week. She approached one woman who recognized her as having been around before with the Combination. When she showed the woman the HARP, she declined to buy. When the woman was shown the card with the questions on it, it aroused her curiosity; and she gave an order for a HARP."

Director at San Diego, Calif.

"After the first week canvassing *Broadcaster* names, I am glad to report as follows:

"The block assigned to me I had canvassed about two years ago, and remembered that most of the people were Catholic and that they did not even give me a hearing. This time even those who did not buy did hear the reason for my call; so I feel that I really announced the kingdom to every one to whom I spoke.

"Our records show that in the block there had been formerly seven sales made; one Combination, three GA subs, four booklets. This time out of 86 names, 56 were out or had moved. Number of sales made were 26—four sets of 8, 12 HARP STUDY Courses, and the rest booklets. Not all of these had received the *Broadcaster*, but most of them had. One Catholic lady was very indignant apparently over what she called the 'roasting' the *Broadcaster* gave the Catholics. But she stated that she had read every copy; and when I offered her the HARP she bought it without any hesitation."

Sister Alston Yuille, Colporteur, Calif.

TENNESSEE

"Went into a store to tell the message to the store merchant. When I entered he seemed so angry that he would not talk to me; but I kept on telling of our glorious kingdom soon to be established. After I had talked to him for a while, he looked at me so sour and said: 'Lady, did you know you can not sell me one of your books?' I told him that I did not come in to sell him a book. He said: 'What did you come for?" and I told him to tell him the message. He then said: 'What did you bring the books for?' I answered that I brought them so that after I had told him the message if he wanted to know more about he could get the book and learn more about the message. He said: 'Well, I will take the three, HARP, World Distress and Desirable Government.' After I talked with him a while longer, he showed me where I could sell three more; and he said he certainly would read his or he would not spend money for them. I find that the best way for me to canvass is not to say too much but always to leave the people with a question answered just enough to make them anxious to see me again, so that I can finish answering it for them the next time.

"The people are hungering for the Truth, but still some do not want to hear it. One lady to whom I gave the Indictment asked me what to do with it, saying that everything she and her husband got from the I. B. S. A. they burned; and she started to tear the Indictment up. I told her that the responsibility was off from me, for I did what was required of me; and that I put all responsibility on her, that it was up to her now, but that if I were she I would look at it first. She was afraid to tear it up then, and took it into the house. I think that if we only would think what we are doing and how much responsibility we are putting on others, we would go forth with more zeal and love."

Sister J. D. Akers, Aux. Colporteur, Tenn.

With Christian greetings, we are,
Your brethren and servants in the Lord,
Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society.

Bulletin

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND

MARCH 1, 1925

Feed the Hungry

THERE is now a famine in the land for the hearing of the Word of the Lord, even as his prophet foretold. —Amos 8:11.

There are, we believe, millions on earth who are really hungry for the truth and know not where to find it. It is a blessed privilege to point them to the food and to feed them.

Lift up a Standard for the People

The enemy (Satan and his cohorts) has come in like a flood in his desperate attempt to turn the people away from God, his Word and his kingdom. Those who have the spirit of the Lord will now, in obedience to the command, lift up a standard against him. (Isaiah 59:19) That standard is the message of truth. It is the message that must be given to those of the world who desire to know the true God and his righteous ways. It is the food upon which the hungry must be fed. It is the balm of consolation that is needed by those who mourn.

Our Commission

The anointed of the Lord are the ones on the earth to carry this message and feed the hungry. To them the Lord has said: "Ye are my witnesses . . . and my servant whom I have chosen. . . . Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God."—Isaiah 43:10-12.

Thy God Reigneth

This is a plain divinely-given commission to the saints this side the vail to represent the Lord and to keep before the people that Jehovah is God, that his kingdom is at hand; and that he, through Christ, comforts all those who desire to be comforted and feeds those who desire to be fed.

During the past few years the Church has been specially advertising the King and his kingdom. Great numbers have learned something about the truth by seeing it advertised and hearing public addresses. There are millions who have not heard, many of whom are hungry. There is a great work to do. Each one who has the spirit of the Lord will have a part in it according to the Lord's command.

Comfort for the People

The SOCIETY is now publishing a booklet, "Comfort for the People." It is a

ADVERTISE THE KING AND THE KINGDOM

brief statement of God's loving provisions for the consolation of those that mourn. It is food in season for the hungry.

If you are one of the consecrated, therefore a witness and servant chosen by the Lord, then you should be energetic in putting into the hands of the people this message of comfort.

Why should not each one of those who are begotten and anointed of the spirit, and who desire to participate in lifting up the standard against the enemy, set aside so many hours each week and devote those hours energetically and lovingly to placing this message of comfort into the hands of the people? It is an easy matter now to engage anyone in conversation concerning the trouble in the world. All know about it.

"Feed the Hungry"

Remember that your neighbor is one in need. Suppose you say to your neighbor something like this: "There is a great amount of distress in the world now, and yet the nations continue to prepare for more war," thus opening the conversation. The response invariably would be in the affirmative. This will afford you an opportunity to say: "Here is a little book that tells the reason why. It is a comfort to read it." Then take the name and address of each one who buys the booklet, and in a short time return and canvass them for the HARP and the STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES.

When one is very hungry it is not well to give him too much at one time. Feed the hungry as they can assimilate the food. Those who desire to be comforted the Lord will permit you to reach. You will be doing them good, you will be performing your divinely-given commission as a faithful witness; and you will be proving your love for the Lord and his kingdom.

Let the slogan be: *Advertise the King and the Kingdom; Feed the Hungry; Comfort those who desire consolation.*

METHODS OF WORK

Larger opportunities present themselves with the Spring and Summer weather. With the more favorable season of the year for work, 1925 has the advantage of finding the people more ready to read our literature. In past years for the most part our literature has been purchased by church workers or people interested in the Bible, but with the calamities and trouble upon the nations thus far experienced in 1925, together with the emphasis laid upon this year by Christian people generally, we find a wider interest not only in the meetings but also in the literature.

Canvass for Sets

To take advantage of this, we recommend that a new combination be introduced in connection with your canvassing, and that the primary canvass be for the seven volumes and the HARP BIBLE STUDY Course. We recommend canvassing for these volumes because our experience has demonstrated that there are a greater number of sales made, and a larger number of homes reached.

It should be remembered that the signs indicate that our work will not long continue; and the people by having the 8 volumes in their homes have a library on Bible matters for reference after you, as a worker, can no longer serve them. Failing, however, to place the 8 volumes, we recommend canvassing for the HARP BIBLE STUDY Course, and failing to place the HARP BIBLE STUDY Course, offer the three booklets, Desirable Government, World Distress and Comfort for the People, at 25¢. If no sale has been made then offer the Comfort booklet at 10¢.

This combination we recommend only, however, if the class has a large stock of Desirable Government and World Distress booklets on hand. Otherwise we recommend substituting the Hell booklet, and Our Lord's Return together with the Comfort booklet for 25¢.

8 Volume Offer Increases Sales

The sale of the eight-volume combination, reports we receive indicate, will exceed this year the distribution of STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES of the past year. Experience in canvassing for the eight-volume combination naturally increases one's ability to place them in the hands of the people, and surely the complete library is what should be left with them.

"The outlook for 1925 is indeed encouraging; for even the church folks are showing a fairly good attitude towards the message of comfort. A man who said he had preached in the Christian Mission Church for twenty years listened with delight to the message, and at the end gave order for a full set of the books. Quite a few people come home to me to get information concerning 'Millions now living will never die', which opportunity I always use to place the volumes. An amusing fact is that although most of the people do not see their way to leave the various churches, yet they constantly look to us for words of comfort concerning the threatening aspect of the times. One lady, a Baptist, listened with breathless silence and at the end ordered the set.

"C. R. Laurent, Aux. colporteur."

Comparison of Value

As a further testimony along this line note the increase that the following zealous colporteur has experienced in canvassing for the 8 volumes. Our mission is not particularly to place a number of booklets. As compared with the value of the STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES and the value of the booklets, the people are better served with STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES. Volume One of the Series retails at 35¢. If it were broken up into six booklets of 64 pages each and these sold at 10¢ each, it would cost the people 60¢. The HARP, on the same basis, would cost the people 60¢. The booklets, it must be remembered, are used primarily to incite interest in the 8 volumes or the HARP BIBLE STUDY Course. Results that can be had from this canvass are ever being emphasized by those who are working along this line.

"Not being much of a salesman personally, I will let you know how many sets we want?' I find that the income from the sale of sets is the chief source of meeting my expenses, and that without canvassing for the set I would be unable to continue in the work without assistance from home. We rejoice in our privilege of advertising the King and the kingdom and working in harmony with the WATCH TOWER BIBLE & TRACT SOCIETY.

"Gilbert Smith, colporteur."

The Field is Ready

Therefore, since last year has permitted the placing of booklets in the hands of the people together with a good distribution of Indictments, the field is better prepared for the canvass for the 8 volumes this coming Summer, especially when your work is linked up with what has been done in the past. Some means of associating past work with present calls will no doubt result as favorably as reported by the following letter:

"Although the weather during the past couple of months has not been very favorable, and I have not been as regular in the service as I would like to be, yet with the approaching Spring I am happily anticipating the blessings that are in store for all who go forth with our beloved message. Since we are living close to the end of our privilege of service on this side the vail, I ask especially that I be remembered by you in your prayers.

"I have had some blessed experiences just lately. In one home the mother ordered the HARP STUDY Course and the Desirable Government. When I went to deliver them the daughter was home and she said, 'When mother told me she was getting the HARP from you I was greatly pleased, as my grandmother has it, and I have only had the opportunity to glance at it.' Then I said, 'Since you are so anxious to read the HARP, I am quite sure you want the other seven volumes which complete the set.' I explained their contents and as a result sold the seven volumes of STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES in the home where the mother had ordered the HARP.

"Another place a colored lady had ordered the set, and when I went back to deliver it she said, 'We were talking about you and your books at our mission last night. One lady said that she had talked with you; and now there are four or five who want the books. Will you give me your address and

I will let you know how many sets we want? Perhaps some of these folks are really anxious for the Truth.

"A man who bought the HARP from me about eight months ago sent for me to come back. He and his wife are deeply interested. He ordered an I. B. S. A. Bible, the seven volumes of STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES, The Way to Paradise and the WATCH TOWER; also the Tabernacle Shadows book. He was reared a Catholic, and he told me how angry he used to become when anyone criticised the priests. He said, 'Several years ago when you folks advertised one of your public meetings, I came home and told my wife of the crazy set of people who were believing in millions, etc., and every time we would hear of it we made fun.

"A man who worked in our mill told me of it and I thought he was crazy, too, but still I listened. Then one night I came home and said to my wife, I believe that millions now living will never die! Since that time I have been wanting to know more.' This illustrates how some people who ridicule at first gradually learn to love the truth. This man is now a pretty regular attendant at our meetings. At our last prayer meeting he brought one of his friends that he had talked with. This friend testified and said, 'I have been very much perplexed lately, and I prayed to the Lord to show me the right way. I went back to the Catholic Church to see if I could be satisfied but it did not seem to fill the vacancy. Then I met this man who I thought belonged to the Catholic Church and he gave me the Truth.'

"Sister Esther Bignell, colporteur."

"Be Thou Faithful Unto Death"

Though all may not be situated so as to devote more than one day a week to the work; yet the persistent devoting of time every week will increase our ability to present the Truth properly to the people. The following letter is a testimony of what one sister did, and it holds before us what is possible when there is an earnest determination to engage in field service:

"I write you of the 'faithfulness unto death' of our dear Sister Wollam (Mrs. Z. A. Wollam) who finished her course February 6th. She was an auxiliary colporteur, averaging about twenty hours canvassing each week, besides caring for her home and husband. She was sixty-seven years of age, and of small stature, weighing about ninety pounds. But away she would go with her two heavy bags of books, day after day, as cheerful and happy as one could imagine. The joy of the Lord was her strength.

"Her memory was not especially strong, but her faithfulness and loving obedience to her heavenly Father were glorious! Sometimes she would get up at 3 a. m. so as to get her work done in time to go out for the day with a canvassing auto party. For the year 1924 she sold more books than any other member of our Riverside Ecclesia, 1321 books; more than the 30 other members of the class put together, not counting the three colporteurs. While coming home in the rain, after a half day's witnessing, about 6:30 p. m. February 6th, she was struck down by an auto and killed. 'Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.'

"Director at Riverside, Calif."

Postage on Quiz Cards

Because of the increased postal rates it is necessary to rearrange the HARP BIBLE STUDY Course and it has been adjusted so that it can be completed in eight weeks time, instead of twelve weeks time, by allotting an average of 34 pages of reading matter to each week's reading assignment. Therefore, even if the postal rates have been increased the price of the HARP BIBLE STUDY Course remains the same to the people..

Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society

Bulletin

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND

JULY AND AUGUST 1, 1925

BE DILIGENT

"My sons, be not now negligent: for the Lord hath chosen you to stand before him, to serve him, and that ye should minister unto him, and burn incense."—2 Chronicles 29:11.

HEZEKIAH was a good king. He pleased the Lord. He called before him the priests and Levites and instructed them, saying the words in the text above.

Israel after the flesh finds a parallel in Israel after the spirit. Those who are begotten and anointed of the holy spirit are the sons of God. The instruction in this text therefore applies to the new creation. Let each one of the consecrated take it to himself.

Spiritual Lethargy

To be negligent means to be listless or indifferent concerning the Lord's Word and work. Now the sons of God see that the kingdom is being established. The Lord has put his words in their mouth and made them his witnesses. The command to such then from the Lord is to be not now negligent; for the Lord has chosen you to stand before him to serve him.

Those who are indifferent or negligent concerning the advertising of the King and his kingdom at this time are missing the greatest opportunities for blessing that have ever been offered to any creatures. These opportunities are conferred not for the Lord's benefit but for his son's benefit. Are you one of his sons? Are you diligently putting forth your best endeavors to serve him?

Some of the consecrated will not be able to answer these questions in the affirmative. Some say: "I cannot sell any books; therefore why should I go out in the service work?" Have you really tried? If there is some one in your class that does go out in the work and sell the books you go to that one and ask him to take you along that you may watch and see what he says and what he does and how the Lord blesses him. Take some instructions and learn how the Lord pours out his spirit upon his sons and handmaidens who really and earnestly seek service. The result will be so energizing that you will be unable to refrain from putting forth an effort yourself.

When you have thus done, and entered joyfully into the Lord's service, you will receive the Lord's blessing in a far wider degree than ever before.

Service Weekly

Every class should set aside at least a half day a week in which every member of the class will make some effort to give a testimony concerning the Lord's kingdom. As a rule Saturday afternoon can be used by every class. The books with which the Lord has provided us contain the message concerning his kingdom. To put these into the hands of the people is preaching the gospel of the kingdom. You are not in a commercial business. You are going out as a witness for the Lord. By giving this witness you prove your love and faithfulness, without which it is impossible to please the Lord.

If you go forth with fear of men this is proof that your love for the Lord is not perfect. (1 John 4:17, 18) If you go forth conscious of the fact that you are the Lord's witness and sent out by him to represent his cause, and you forget yourself and are anxious to serve the Lord, you are certain to have his blessing.

The marginal reading of this text is: "My sons, be not now deceived." These words have a peculiar significance at the present hour. In discussing conditions in the very end of the church's earthly experiences, Jesus said that the false Christs and teachers would work such deceptions "that if it were possible they shall deceive the very elect". It is not likely that many who have been long in present truth would be deceived now by doctrines because the fundamental doctrines are thoroughly established. The deception is more likely to come in this, that the adversary, by subtle influences, would lull to sleep some and cause some to become negligent in the faithful representation of the 'King and the kingdom interests, and thereby be overreached. Diligence in service is essential to victory.

The Apostle Peter in writing to the church said: "Give diligence to make your calling and election sure." It would follow then that those who are negligent will not make their calling and election sure. The most important thing of all is to receive the approval of the Lord; and since he has commanded that his sons shall not be fearful but loving, that they shall not be negligent but diligent, they must earnestly seek for opportunities for service and joyfully enter into them, remembering always that "the joy of the Lord is your strength".

METHODS OF WORK

I. B. S. A. week, September 7-12, will, we trust, offer many opportunities for service. This period being set aside throughout the world will provide time for all the consecrated to engage in field work and, in addition, to take advantake of the opportunities that they may have of telling the truth to as many people as they can during this special service week. I. B. S. A. week of past years has given a tremendous witness for the truth, but I. B. S. A. week of 1925 finds more people interested in our message and anxious to hear the truth. We feel that the workers, more than anyone else, know and appreciate this situation.

There are many people who are desirous of knowing more about the message. Answering all their questions takes too much of the workers' valuable time, especially when there are so many families yet to be reached. In order to take advantage of the larger opportunities of service we suggest that the workers endeavor to limit their call at each home to seven minutes, and in any case to not spend more than ten minutes. What you have to say regarding the message is contained in the books or booklets you have with you, and if a book or booklet can be placed in the hands of the people it will enable them to get practically the same information that they would obtain from you by asking questions. But what is more important, it would allow you to go on and call on other people who too are anxious for the message.

The plan of work during I. B. S. A. week

is to canvass for the Seven Volumes of STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES and the HARP BIBLE STUDY Course for $2.85. Since it is quite probable that you will not call at many of the homes again within a year our suggestion would be that you impress the people with the scope of the work of the INTERNATIONAL BIBLE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION by offering the entire eight volumes. This will let them see that the message of the kingdom is comprehensive, and that the I. B. S. A. is bringing it to the attention of the people in such a form as to deal with all the questions and problems of the present time in their relation to prophecy. Impress them with the fact that the eight volumes fully cover these matters which interest everybody. The general experience of the workers who write to us is much along the line of the following letter:

Blessing Attended Efforts

I am a little surprised at myself in the work, as I always thought I could not sell a complete set of books. I have been in the truth since 1921 and did not sell a full set of books until this year. I was afraid to trust myself in canvassing for the set, yet I could always sell HARPS. But since April 28 I have sold fifteen full sets besides nine single volumes, forty-nine HARPS, 25 Comforts, 25 Hell Booklets, three Our Lord's Return, and forty-one GOLDEN AGES. So I am rejoicing in the Lord, my strength.

SR. W. WATSON, Colp.— *Wash., D. C.*

It is only by putting forth an effort such as the worker above put forth that will demonstrate whether or not you can place the eight volumes in the people's homes. We trust that you, too, may have the success of the brother who writes us as follows:

What Will be Placed

My first day's canvassing showed five sets and nine HARPS. This was surely encouraging to me and seems to indicate the Lord's blessing on the work here. While some of the orders have been canceled, the excuse being lack of money, I trust to make enough sales to stay in the work. . . . I left Volume Six with a lady to show her husband. He told her that the books were at their church; but I suggested that they get a set for their home, and the woman ordered and paid for a full set. Then she told me that a man across the street had seen the Sixth Volume the day before and requested me to call. I did so, and found him to be a teacher in the high school here. He took the full set and said that he was surely going to read them.

BROTHER E. E. STEIDLEY, Colp.—*Texas.*

I.B.S.A.

During I. B. S. A. week it is well to make a point of emphasizing that you are connected with the International Bible Students Association, and also to mention in some part of your canvass the slogan, "millions now living will never die." We believe that this will gain entrance to many homes that are as a rule not open to canvassers, such as the sister mentions in the following letter:

We surely feel that the Lord is directing the work here. Many women have said after ordering the set of eight, "I did not intend to let you in, there are so many canvassers; but I am glad I did." One lady met me down town and exclaimed: "Oh, here is the lady with the books! You may bring me a set of them now." Have also received an order by mail, and one lady who had ordered the books herself wrote me that a neighbor of hers, who was not at home the day I called, wished me to call and demonstrate the books to her, and if they were satisfactory she would take a set.

SISTERS L. AND V. PIERCE, Colpts.—*Mich.*

In addition to opportunities for service that I. B. S. A. week offers in the field you will probably have occasion to bring the truth to the attention of others in many varied ways. If you have occasion to visit some relative, we urge you to mention the truth to them particularly during I. B. S. A. week. If you have occasion to make some gifts, we suggest that in keeping with I. B. S. A. week some of our publications be given to the people. Probably your efforts may be blessed with the same results that the sister writes us of in the following letter:

I have had several interesting experiences, one in particular which showed me so plainly that the Lord is supervising his work. After giving the lady my canvass at the door she said, "Please tell me, are those books Mr. Russell's?" I told her the seven were, but the eighth was Judge Rutherford's. I said, "Have you ever read any of his works?" Her reply was, "No, I have not. I am afraid to." I asked her why she

was afraid, if some one had warned her against heading them; and she said they had. We had quite an interesting conversation, in which I found out that she was the organist in one of the largest churches in St. Louis. She said, "I tell you I have just about as much faith in what the ministers know about the Bible as I have in what I know myself." She also said, "I often sit there and think: Are you sincere or are you not?" She admitted she did not know much about the Bible herself.

However, she did not think she could afford to take the HARP; so I showed her the Comfort booklet. The minute she set her eyes on the book she said, "Wait a minute," and turned and went into the house and brought out one of the books. She informed me that her father was an old man and had been working for the Missouri Pacific Railway for years. The employes gave him a birthday party, each one bringing him a gift. One person (one of our sisters) gave him the little booklet. When she found out that this little book was our literature she bought the HARP, and is now reading them both.

SISTER R. C. SHOWMAN—*St. Louis, Mo.*

Beyond Other Efforts

There are many opportunities about us for service; and by taking advantage of the opportunities offered in telling the truth to the people whom we meet in every-day life, going to and from our work or those with whom we have business dealings, we can extend our efforts in that direction and make I. B. S. A. week of 1925 greater than the witness of previous years by telling the truth to more people than ever before. In fact, the spirit that is emphasized in the following letter could well be adopted by all the friends:

I called at a house on the outskirts of Howard City where there was every evidence of extreme poverty. My first thought was that there would be no use of showing the lady the entire set of volumes, feeling that a ten cent booklet would probably be as much as she would be able to purchase. But I know how Satan is always suggesting thoughts to prevent our canvassing for the set; so I make it a rule to show them the volumes anyway, regardless of appearances. When I finished my canvass I found that this woman showed little interest in the booklets, but was so pleased to find that she could get all these books explaining the Bible at such a cheap price that she told me to send her the full set of eight books. I did so, half expecting they would be returned, but the money came instead.

SISTER C. G. MORGAN, Colp.—*Mich.*

Miss None

By keeping in mind the strains of the hymn, "To the Work, To the Work," and particularly the line that says, "And pass none by," the witness during I. B. S. A. week will be greater. If some evenings of the week have been set aside for auto trips, probably a stop along the road at one or two houses could be arranged conveniently and five or ten minutes employed just to tell the message and attempt to leave some literature. If during each day of I. B. S. A. week you grasp such little opportunities, though they may seem to be trivial, hardly worth mentioning, you will, we are sure, find that the week has provided many opportunities for service over and above the time that you are able to give in the field by going from door to door.

During I. B. S. A. week we urge that the friends keep in mind that it is a week for concerted witnessing for the kingdom, not only in your community but in every community and in every country throughout the world. If each of the friends everywhere will seize upon all the odd moments of time that they can, this I. B. S. A. week of 1925 can be made to far exceed any similar effort of the past. Be assured of our interest in what you are accomplishing and of our particular interest in the experiences you may have in the line of most effectively engaging your present opportunities of service: (1) by watching and limiting the amount of time that you employ at each home you call upon; and (2) by attempting to bring the message to as many people as possible with whom you chance to meet during I. B. S. A. week.

With Christian greetings, we are

Your brethren and co-laborers in His service,

Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society

Bulletin

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND

OCTOBER 1, 1925

"Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people."—Isaiah 62: 10.

THE commission given to the church is to declare the day of vengeance of our God, and to comfort all that mourn. All of the anointed and faithful will joyfully perform this commission. They will tell the people that the long, dark night of oppression that has resulted from Satan's misrule is ending, and that God will dash to pieces that wicked one's empire; that the kingdom of righteousness now being established will bring peace and prosperity to the groaning creation and will open the way that leads to life.

In ancient times cities were walled. The gate was a way of entry into that city. A city represents a government or kingdom; in this instance the kingdom of God. The saints know that the kingdom of God is here. These are the representatives of God on earth to be his witnesses that he is Jehovah. Now the command to them is to "go through the gates; prepare the way of the people". This means that by their course of action they must point the people to the kingdom of God that the people may know the way that leads thereunto. It is the anointed class that must cast up the highway. That means that the saints must point out the way of holiness that the people may turn to the King and prepare for his kingdom.

The stumbling stones of error that have caused the people to stumble must now be gathered out that the people may know the truth. The anointed must do this work, because the command to them is so to do. A standard must be lifted up for the peoples that the peoples may know where they can find a rallying place of security and peace and how they may be guided into the ways everlasting. This is the present work of the anointed.

Elisha did a restoration work. The church, that is the anointed ones now on earth, must do a reconstruction work before they leave the earth. That reconstruction work is to prepare the people for the kingdom now being set up. There must be restored at least to some of the peoples the great fundamental truths of

God's Word taught by Jesus and the apostles, which key of knowledge was taken away from the peoples by the representatives of the enemy, Satan the Devil. The peoples must be given a knowledge of the truth. Those who have an ear to hear will hear.

This work is now before the anointed. If you are one of that class you will do that work. None others will do it. The work will be done with gladness of heart. Those who do it will enter into the joy of the Lord and appreciate the prophetic statement that "the joy of the Lord is your strength".

The Lord has provided the message in printed form. All the anointed can have some part in sending this message out to the people. Rejoice and give praise to God, ye anointed and blessed ones, that you are privileged to perform this sacred commission as witnesses on earth for the Most High God!

On October 31st, "The Message of Hope" in the form of a tract for free distribution will be given out to the people. Let each one prepare to participate therein who desires to represent the Lord's cause.

November 24th will be a general bookselling day, at which time the actual results of the distribution of the Message of Hope may be ascertained.

Special Privileges this Month

October holds for the workers many special opportunities in addition to the regular privileges of service that they enjoy daily in the field; and since the month thus offers more work to be done may it not be that the Lord would have each enjoy these opportunities as added blessings, without permitting them to interfere with privileges which the workers already enjoy in the field? A world-wide distribution of the "Message of Hope", passed at the Indianapolis Convention, is planned for the month. The SOCIETY has arranged to print a sufficient quantity to supply every home in the territory assigned to each class. October 31 has been set aside as the date on which this distribution is to begin; but before the tract can be distributed there is much to be done in obtaining your supply; having the territory set aside for your work, and assisting in the preparations necessary to getting the tract distributed in the rural districts. In the Letter of Instructions sent to directors an outline of work to be done, together with instructions as to how to accomplish the work, will properly take care of the details.

Checking the Results

Since the Message of Hope is one attempting to provide the people with a new outlook, with a view of the future that penetrates the trouble and perplexities of the people, we think it advisable to try to ascertain as nearly as possible the results of the distribution. As nearly as we can gage the ability of the different classes it seems apparent that the distribution can be finished by November 24. Hence November 24 has been set aside as a world-wide witness day for field service. All who have engaged in the distribution will be invited to participate in the follow-up work; and our instruction to the director is that he send workers into as many different localities or to as many different towns as possible in the territory, and report what results the workers find in these localities that they would attribute to the influence of the Message of Hope.

In your field service work on November 24 we would like you to observe especially the attitude which the people have taken as a result of the reading of the Message of Hope; how many are favorably impressed, and particularly how many of those who place orders for the complete set of STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES and the HARP BIBLE STUDY, Course do so because of the Message of Hope. We will then advise you, through the *Bulletin,* of the result of the distribution in other territories, and we can then

know of the influence of the Message throughout the world.

Reaching the Rural Districts

Certain rural sections can be reached only by mail; and in order to facilitate the distribution in these sections we have instructed directors to have sufficient copies of the Message of Hope ready for mailing by the evening of October 29, so as to guarantee the simultaneous distribution throughout the rural sections on October 31. Meanwhile there will be much work to do in addressing the wrappers, stamping, folding and wrapping the Message of Hope for circulation; and though this work will entail a great amount of time our appeal to the workers is to endeavor to assist the director as much as possible without interfering with their regular canvassing from door to door throughout the week. Likely there are others in the class who are not able to engage in the house to house canvassing, but who can find time in their home to assist in this volunteer work. Likewise there may be many of the workers who will have time to do some of this work in their homes on days they could not engage in canvassing.

An Army in Two Divisions

We would like to have as many as possible engage in the work of canvassing on October 31, so that there would be two divisions in the field; the first division going from door to door canvassing for the STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES and leaving a copy of the Message of Hope at every home visited whether they canvass the people or not; and the second division, those who cannot engage in canvassing that day, giving some time to distributing the Message of Hope and thus opening the way for back calls, which brethren could make in the evening. In addition to reporting to directors the quantity of books sold, include on your report the number of the Message of Hope distributed. December 2 is the Wednesday evening for joint testimony and service meeting; and being the first Wednesday after the world-wide service day, November 24, it will provide an excellent opportunity to report the results of your observations of the results of the distribution of the Message of Hope.

A Constructive Message

The distribution of this constructive Message impresses us as being far more important than any other distribution that has been attempted in times past. Isaiah prophesied that when the enemy should come in like a flood the spirit of the Lord should raise up a standard for the people. The enemy has flooded the country during the past year with theories attempting to destroy the faith of the people in God's Word. The wide publicity given to the evolution theory and the over-confidence placed in the findings of scientists seem to us to be this flood that the enemy would bring in; and it is the Lord who says that He will then come to the people with a standard. The Message of Hope will raise the standard for the people; and since the prophecy says that the enemy would first come in like a flood it is evident that this flood of the enemy will be so directed of the Lord as to arouse greater interest and more attention to the standard for the people which the spirit of the Lord would raise up for them at this time.

"Ye are My Witnesses"

"Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord," to the workers throughout the world; and as witnesses we carry not only the Message of Hope, but also a library of reading matter that will enable the people to strengthen and revive the hope that the Message will bring to them during November as providing a new and more promising outlook of the future. Raising a standard for the people, bringing them the message of hope, is to them a new work. It is a work of the future.

"The blessing of the Lord maketh rich," and we are assured from this statement of Proverbs 10: 22 that God has much in store for all of his witnesses in blessings in connection with the work of bringing the Message of Hope to the people.

Nearing Her Goal

"Enclosed find money order for 1,000 handbills ordered for the public meeting held at St. Louis, Mich. About fifteen persons were present at the above meeting. Bro. I. O. Biery of Midland gave the witness. Much interest was shown. I have canvassed thirty-six towns and sold 1,360 books this year so far; so my goal of 2,000 is in sight." (Letter dated Aug. 10, 1925.)—Sister C. G. Morgan, Colp., *Mich.*

"Three in the Warsaw class went out in the service with me Thursday, and we find in these places some hearing ears this year. Last year these same people closed the doors in our faces."—Sister C. A. Miles, Colp., *Ind.*

I. B. S. A. "War Record" Admired

"I am nearly through with the work in Albany and expect to go to Harrisburg next. We sold twenty-seven sets here, besides quite a number of HARP BIBLE STUDY Courses and other books. One lady said, 'Yes, I'm interested. Come right in. I watched the I. B. S. A. all through the war, and I think they are wonderful. They declared their principles so fearlessly, and then stood by them when all the other religious people failed. But the hard thing for me was that I was ill and kept at home, and could do nothing for them when they were being persecuted. But the thought came to me, 'He that is faithful in that which is least'; and I thought if I am faithful now at home in the little things the Lord may give me larger opportunities of service later.' She had some of the books but took more. I greatly rejoice in the Lord and joy in the God of my salvation. I find an increasing joy in His service."—Sister Mabel Barton, Colp., *Oregon.*

Sells Full Sets Readily

"Enclosed find report of a few days per week. Often I wish that I could be in the service five hours a day, but my strength will not permit. There are a great many scattered homes and much walking. Have made back calls where I sold a HARP or a booklet last year and find good results. In one home I received an order for two complete sets and the address of the lady's brother, who would be likely to buy one. One Adventist woman bought a set; and when I delivered them, her daughter also wanted one. In another home I also sold two complete sets. Most of the orders for complete sets were from back calls. Had almost finished canvassing the three small towns assigned by the director when I had to stop work last October and could not go ahead with them until this summer. By the time I finished almost every home will have some of our publications. I can testify with others that the people are anxious to know the outcome of present conditions."—Sister B. S. Messenger, Hyattsville, *Md.*

Harp Course in Schools

"Most people think the full set is a wonderful bargain when they find out that there is nothing funny or fanatical about it. It is surely good to see the unbelieving satire disappear from tone and countenance, and reason take its place. One lady said today that she had to buy one of the HARP BIBLE STUDY Courses for her children to use in their grade school; that the school children had not been able to get correct answers to the Bible questions they had to take; and as I understood it, she was told to get the HARP Course! She herself had not read the book, but it was at the schoolhouse. Another woman said that the Sunday School classes at one of the churches here had split up and part of them were using something else, as some were dissatisfied with the International Sunday School questions and answers. I could not find out what they were using instead. Have been wedging the HARPS and Courses among the young and old of the Sunday schools, telling them that even the Sunday School teachers were using them (and they were). The outbreak has come in the last week or so, and I have wondered if the HARPS have caused the discontent with the Babylonish wisdom or not."—Sister Nellie Elliott, Colp., *Indiana.*

With Christian greetings, we are

Your brethren and servants in the Lord,

Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society

Bulletin

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND

NOVEMBER 1, 1925

The Doing of God's Will

AN ATTITUDE of reverence toward God is necessary on the part of anybody who hopes to gain God's favor, but one might have that reverence and still fall short of what is expected of him. He might even be very busy at what some have told him is Christian work and still might fail utterly to win divine approval. The Lord Jesus made this clear when he said: "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."—Matthew 7: 21-23.

Notice that here are some that are of reverent mind. They are planning, working and hoping for the Lord's approval. They are able to give discourses and they feel that the sermons they have preached, the evils they have helped to obliterate, and the other remarkable things they have done entitle them to God's favorable notice.

But note that while the Master does not say they have not preached, and while he does not deny that they have even cast out devils and done other wonderful works, and while he could not deny that they have called upon him in prayer, saying Lord, Lord, yet he does say that they are utterly unworthy, and that their works instead of being the right kind, works which God could bless, have been unsatisfactory, works of iniquity.

It is evident there is a point here which the Master wishes us to see clearly. It is that any works to be acceptable to God must be in line with the divine will, as expressed in his Word. Let others go ahead doing what they think will please God, but let us who are the Lord's do God's will. Let us proclaim the things of the kingdom which he has now entrusted to us.

There are no others who can proclaim the kingdom of heaven at this time as an established fact. None others know about it. None others even know that the King is present. How then can they be held responsible for proclaiming that of which they know nothing? Their responsibility begins and ends with their

knowledge of the truth. In proportion as they know the truth, in that proportion are they responsible for proclaiming it.

If we do not proclaim the message of the kingdom, who will? Who can? But the message will be proclaimed. That much is certain. And if we do not do it, then the Lord will raise up others who will do it. The Lord is no respecter of persons, and we need not think that the Lord has not reserved to himself others besides those of our aquaintance who have not bowed the knee to Baal.

It may be that some of us are willing to serve the Lord if we can do it in our own way, by preaching sermons or championing reforms or doing other wonderful works, especially if we reverently call upon the Lord's name as we do so. But if the Lord has other work for us to do, and we refuse to do it, then we may be sure the works will be rated as works of iniquity and we shall go without the final reward that we hope to obtain.

METHODS OF WORK

I. B. S. A. Week saw distributed in the United States 55,978 books and booklets. There was probably a greater number than this actually distributed; for the above total is reported by but 450 of the 900 classes organized for service. I. B. S. A. Week of 1925 was world-wide in its scope, and the reports that we are receiving from other countries indicate that an equally wide witness was given throughout the world. One such report is the following from Hawaii:

> "I can testify to the joy that comes to one who engages in putting out the literature. I am in an isolated territory, in a town of about 11,000 inhabitants, composed of Japanese, Chinese, Koreans, Filipinos, Hawaiians, Portuguese, and a few whites, but I find the people here are more receptive to the message than in many places in the States. One Korean was so glad to get the books that he would not wait for me to get the volumes, but drove me in his car to my hotel and paid the money very quickly. The Korean people are very devout, and I find the Japanese are also much interested in the Japanese MILLIONS book. I sold about 100 Japanese MILLIONS last week and about 200 books altogether."
>
> —Bro. E. Burnham, *Hilo, Hawaii.*

Again, the outstanding feature of the week is the zeal and activity of the workers. Though great results were manifest in the sale of the books, yet the zeal with which the friends as a whole engaged in the service made the results that we have the natural consequence. The following report is a letter that can be singled out as a general expression from nearly all the classes throughout the United States:

> "We have just ended the service week's work. The response of the brethren in the work has been the best we have ever had. Of the twenty-one who attend the prayer meeting all but two were in the service and these were physically unable to work. And some who have not attended the prayer meetings regularly were in the service. Altogether twenty-two served, working 216 hours, an average of ten hours each. There have been sold about 240 books and booklets, but only 3 full sets, of which only one has been delivered, and about 60 HARPS. All the brethren canvassed for the full set. Those who manifested the most interest in the full sets were too poor to buy, and those who had sufficient means did not manifest sufficient interest to buy. The brethren covered more territory per hour than ever before and therefore we covered a large territory, considering the number of workers. We covered all of Orrville, a town of about 5,000 people, and about one-third of a township in rural territory. The workers are much encouraged because of the work which has been done. We had a public meeting at Orrville, Sunday night, but only about six of the public were out, after being given a personal invitation and an announcement in the public press."
>
> —Class Director, *Massilon, Ohio.*

I. B. S. A. Week showed another digression from the general trend in that a greater number of 8-Volume combinations were sold than of the 7-Volume combinations, and this week saw a greater number of sets of STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES placed in the homes of the people than we have any record of at this office. During the week a total of 1,085 sets of STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES were placed throughout the country. Again, we

believe this large sale of sets of STUDIES is a good indication of what the field holds for the workers in the canvassing of the 8-Volume combination:

"About fifteen brethren and the same number of sisters devoted some time to the work, some putting in all week. A special effort to sell the sets of eight according to the previous month's Bulletin was made, and all were surprised at the results. About 550 volumes, mostly in sets of eight, were sold and about the same number of booklets, also ZG's and GA's sold and distributed. This is not so great a showing as some classes make, but the thing that pleases us all is that we really can sell sets when an effort is made, and the weekly reports since the drive show sales of the full sets. As a rule, if the worker himself feels the practical value of the full library, he is able to show the prospective buyer the usefulness of the complete set; as, for instance, a standard encyclopedia must contain all the volumes, the whole alphabet, to fill the purpose. The suggestion of conserving the worker's time, brevity of canvass, etc., were carried out to some extent at least, with good results. We are indeed thankful for our privilege of service as a class, and are learning more fully what is 'the joy of the Lord', whose continued blessing we pray upon you and us in the service of the King."

—Class Director, *Spokane, Wash.*

One of the other distinguishing features of the week's work is, that it becomes more apparent that recanvassing territory finds greater interest and shows a greater sale of volumes than did the previous work. This emphasizes that the first canvassing was almost necessary in order to awaken the interest of the people and to open the way for the full set. The field, then, holds still greater results; especially since the trend of the times tends to an increasing interest in the message of truth:

"The territory that I am now canvassing may be properly spoken of as an old one and there is always the temptation of canvassing new territory; but I often find the old territory to be a new one. Just yesterday I canvassed a lady in a recognized territory who said she never heard the message of 'Millions now living will never die', before. She is no exception. Another lady who took the HARP Course a year ago was glad to meet me and said I must call with the set of seven a few days hence. A man who is amember of the Anglican church was reluctant to buy and read the HARP; but a short time afterward he met me, and said that he had read it many times over and that it gives that high conception of God that he was always longing to have. His belief is that his minister must have read our books; for he sometimes preaches some of the contents of the HARP. He took the full set and wants THE GOLDEN AGE. Two ladies, members of the Wesleyan Methodist church, told me a few minutes afterward that their minister preached some of the things I mentioned in my canvass, but warns them against listening to us and buying our books. They both bought the HARP and a third lady of the same company the complete set, also subscribing to THE GOLDEN AGE. The eldest of the three said, 'Your message rejoices my heart. I am glad to hear it.' One man, when I began my canvass said, 'Stay awhile. This is too good for me alone to hear; let me go and call mother.' The whole family came, along with a visiting evolutionist who was astonished at the reasonableness of the message and advised the family to buy the books, for they were good. The family took the advice and bought a full set and are now taking the HARP Course. A Chinese lawyer when he saw the books asked, 'Are these Pastor Russell's?' 'Yes,' was the reply. He took the set, remarking, 'I read one or two of them in Ancon.' There are still good prospects in the field, though there are also indications that the work is likely to stop suddenly. In the meantime I am determined not to stop until I am stopped, if the Lord so permits."

—Bro. C. R. Laurent, Colp., *Canal Zone.*

Since, then, the people know something of your message, and after you make another call at their homes you are to bring them further information about the signs of the times, the fulfilment of prophecy, we believe it would be well if the workers could endeavor to conserve the time they employ in canvassing, by making a shorter canvass. We believe that there is a two-fold advantage in this. The first is to impress the people with the fact that your message is an important one and that you are not intent upon repeating what you have already brought to their attention; and second, it is conserving the time you have to engage in the service and will allow a larger number of homes to be called upon. Some tests similar to the suggestion of the sister who writes us as fol-

lows, might be made during the canvassing of the next few months, so that the favorable seasons of the year will find you able to give a witness or a canvass with more conciseness and more directness, and with a saving of time over that of the past year:

"I believe a short canvass is much better, because I canvass here at home whenever I get a chance. People stop at the well for water often. I hurry out and canvass them while they are filling their radiator or horses, as the case may be. I have practised the short canvass because the ones who stop are always in a hurry. When the Bulletin came telling us to use seven minutes, I took the clock and watched as I canvassed. It took just five and a half minutes to say my canvass. That would give me only one and a half minutes for a question, or some other little delay that the ones canvassed might give. Sometimes they buy right away, and I sell to a little more than two-thirds of the people who stop at the well."

—Sr. R. Shaw, *Clay Center, Kans.*

Since the condition of the field emphasizes such a general trend of interest toward the truth, we believe it is well to identify as soon as possible the work that you are representing. This seems emphasized in the following letter:

"A little incident which might be of interest: A lady on whom I called, seeing I had something to sell, threw up both hands and told me that if I had anything to sell, there was no use talking. I ignored her remark and told her about the books and the price. She still insisted that she had no money. I showed her the three small booklets for 25c. She became interested in the subjects and asked the price of the set, and said, 'Well, come in and let's talk it over.' In a few minutes I had her order for a set of eight and an invitation to call back, as she wanted a set for her mother. I called back in a few days and found her just devouring the books and inquiring about the other publications listed in the HARP—THE PHOTO DRAMA OF CREATION, Pastor Russell's Sermons, WATCH TOWER, etc. She bought a cloth SCENARIO, gave me an order for another set and a WATCH TOWER subscription. I invited her to our study and called for her. At the close of the meeting she asked for the loan of a hymn book so that she might learn some of the songs. The next morning she was waiting at the station to bid us good bye." —Sr. Viola Pierce, Colp., *Mich.*

"Just a few words to tell you the work has been a great joy and blessing to us in our class. The dear Lord has richly blessed our efforts, enabling us to place many books this year. At times when canvassing little towns, leaving many books and never hearing from the people, whether they have read them or not, some may feel a little discouraged. So for the encouragement of these, I would like to relate a little incident about what one book did: I gave a lady my canvass and she replied: 'I have a wonderful book that we have read and reread. It is called 'Sermons by Pastor Russell.' She then told me her experience. During the late war, in his camp her husband had charge of all articles thrown away. One day he saw this book and took possession of it. Now they had withdrawn from the Lutheran church and had received much persecution because they were standing firm for the truth. They had never met any Bible Students or heard any lectures, had only one book, but still were rejoicing in the truth and were very glad to get some more literature. There may be many, many people who get our literature and are rejoicing, although we do not hear from them. What a privilege is ours and what joy it brings to our hearts to advertise the King and his kingdom!" —Sr. E. Hogan, *Mpls.*

I. B. S. A. Week has manifested what can be accomplished by persistent effort in the field. We hardly think it too much to expect that shortly almost every week of the year will hold forth the results that this one week accomplished. We are sure that as far as the interests of the truth and the the zeal of the workers are concerned, every week holds the same interest as I. B. S. A. Week; and we are inclined to feel that the trend of interest in the message will have many weeks during 1926 exceeding I. B. S. A. Week of 1925, and that I. B. S. A. Week of 1926 will far exceed any previous effort and will set a new goal for witnessing and for the wide promulgation of the message.

Trusting that the Lord will prosper you in the work, and that your increase may be in much joy.

With Chrisian greetings, we are

Your brethren and servants in the Lord,

Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society
Service Dept.

Bulletin

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND

December 1st, 1925,

The Call to Service

THE Lord Jesus, our Master, had no thought that his people should be a company of more or less pious recluses, shut off from the world, given over to petty tasks and so-called holy meditations. He expected them to be active in the proclamation of the truth, and so active as to call for comment from those about them. Notice his statement of this in the Sermon on the Mount:

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."—Matthew 5: 14-16.

In every neighborhood there are people that, so far as the neighbors can see, lead most exemplary lives. They commit no offences that anybody can take note of. They are quiet, orderly, industrious, peaceable. Are we to suppose that these are fulfilling the conditions of the scripture above cited? The answer is obvious.

Some of them are Turks, followers of Mohammed, peacefully engaged in selling rugs. Some are Chinese, doing laundry work for a living, followers of Confucius. Some are dealers in Japanese bric-a-brac, Shintoists. Many are Roman Catholics. Some are Christian Scientists. Are these fulfilling the Master's command?

The only ones that can let their lights shine are those who have the light. The light they are to let shine is the light regarding the kingdom. At the first advent they were to go out proclaiming that the kingdom of heaven is at hand. They did so. In every corner of the Roman world they proclaimed that Jesus is the Messiah. This they did so effectively that at length the great Roman empire was compelled to take notice of what at first it only despised.

Today the light is shining much more brilliantly than it was at the first advent. Earth's rightful King has come in his power. If it was a blessed thing to announce the kingdom of heaven at the first advent, when membership in it was confined to the one person, Jesus of Nazareth, the King, how much more blessed is the present opportunity of proclaiming our risen and glorified Lord as earth's rightful King, already present, engaged in the destruction of Satan's empire, putting to flight the powers of darkness, and laying foundations broad and deep enough for a human government that will give life, liberty and happiness to all who will!

Incidentally, it was not the candle wick that the Master wanted shown. Some have misunderstood this point. The wicks should be good wicks, clean wicks, wicks well filled with oil; but the thing that the Lord wants revealed is not the wick but that which comes through it, and which results when the wick is consumed; namely, the shedding forth of the light of truth toward those, who, however commendable their lives, are still in darkness as respects the plan of God.

LETTER OF INSTRUCTIONS TO DIRECTORS

December, 1925

At the beginning of 1925 it was pointed out that extra effort would be necessary in order that the work would show a marked increase over 1924. The year's report of the activities of the SOCIETY shows that this extra effort was put forth by the workers in the field, and that the truth had a wider witness during 1925 than during 1924. Difficulties of a new sort had to be met during 1925, general depression throughout the country, and for the most part the workers reporting "No money". To canvass from day to day with small results naturally would tend to discourage rather than to encourage field work. The interest of the people, on the other hand, and a marked disposition on their part to listen to the truth was found generally. The field force seemed to just meet the difficulties that were presented, with greater results, and hence 1925 stands out as a year of greater witnessing for the truth. The general increase in the work was more manifest toward the ending of the year. The earlier months of the year did not permit so large a distribution of literature as did the later months. Likewise, a larger proportion of the sales during the later months were of the sets of STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES, whereas the sales in the earlier part of the year reported a larger percentage of the HARP OF GOD. From this we would conclude that the attitude of the people called upon is continually growing more favorable toward the truth; for with the same amount of effort workers are now enabled to place a larger proportion of literature in the homes they call upon.

Class Report

During the fiscal year ending October 1, 1925, the classes reported a total of 56,639 workers in the service throughout the year. This is a weekly average of 1,089 workers. Since our reporting of sales takes into consideration only the HARP Course and the STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES, the average sale per week of the 1,089 workers amounted to 3,249 individual homes. The total number of bound volumes placed in the homes during 1925 was divided as follows:

Sets of eight volumes	6,132
Sets of seven volumes	9,401
HARP STUDY Courses	**153,414**
TOTAL	168,947

Colporteur Report

Sets of eight volumes	13,035
Sets of seven volumes	7,557
HARP STUDY Courses	**139,063**
TOTAL	159,655

Sale of Booklets

Classes	**642,928**
Colporteurs	275,848
TOTAL	918,776

I. B. S. A. Week

Sets of eight volumes	**541**
Sets of seven volumes	**506**
HARP STUDY Courses	**4,325**
HARP OF GOD	**5,636**
Booklets, misc. vols.	37,251
TOTAL	48,259

Convention Report

Sets of STUDIES	**334**
HARP OF GOD	**5,371**
Booklets, misc. vol.	25,626
TOTAL	31,331

During 1925 there were approximately 64,899 more booklets sold than during 1924 and approximately 7,989 more HARP STUDY Courses and 48 sets of STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES. In the colporteur branch of the service there was an average of 439 colporteurs and an average of 318 auxiliary colporteurs in the service throughout the year, making a total average of 756 colporteurs in the work during 1925. The colporteur branch of the service sold 5,059 more sets of STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES than did the class workers. However, the classes sold 4,351 more copies of the HARP OF GOD than did the colporteurs.

Though the above figures indicate the sale of the publications of the SOCIETY, yet a much

greater work should be recognized in connection with the field service in the house to house canvassing. Workers going from door to door give a witness for the truth in their canvass; and during 1925 the workers called upon 1,415,875 homes witnessing to the truth. During 1925 class workers visited 33,000 more homes than during 1924. Regular colporteurs during 1925 visited approximately 4,032,000 homes, and the auxiliary colporteurs 804,000 homes. Hence the field force during 1925 visited 6,251,875 homes and, when the booklets are taken into consideration, placed literature in 1,014,217 of the homes visited. A witness of the truth of this nature is more far-reaching than can really be measured. The truth is left in some tangible form. People will refer to the books already placed, and for the most part will be anxious for more literature that will inform them along the lines that they have been reading since your visit. As great as the witness might seem, yet in the final analysis it means that during the past year of all the subjects that have been brought to the attention of the people, of all the ideas that they have considered and given time and thought to, only those in whose homes literature was placed permitted the subject of the truth to occupy their attention after the worker's call. The larger proportion of the homes listened to a talk of approximately fifteen minutes on the subject of the truth, and aside from this they hear or know little of it for the remainder of the year. Yet as sorrows and perplexities come to their homes, they no doubt find more comfort and more real satisfaction in reflecting upon what you have told them than in the sum total of their reading of other subjects and in the satisfaction and contentment that they might have had temporarily from amusements, etc.

Public Interest Increasing

What the sale of the HARP BIBLE STUDY Course and the booklets should mean to the workers is that there is a greater number of homes anxious for the full testimony of the Lord's kingdom than in previous years. Approximately 292,477 more homes will have had the HARP BIBLE STUDY Course to consider, refer to and talk over during the interim of your call during 1926 than last year. These people will surely want to know about other publications of the SOCIETY; and you will find them interested in the 7-Volume offer of STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES at your next call. Hence as you go from door to door in covering the territory, your aim would be to serve this vast number of people with complete sets of STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES.

Additionally, 917,776 homes have during the past year purchased copies of booklets. Just what proportion purchased them with a view of determining the nature of the treatment of the Bible prophecies we are unable to even suggest; but we believe it is fair to say that the larger proportion of the people who did not have the bound volumes and bought booklets, purchased booklets with this thought in mind. Hence if you can remember what was done in the territory at your previous call and can take up the subject of books where you left off at your last call, whether it was with the placing of the HARP BIBLE STUDY Course or the booklets, you will interest the people. Of course it would be impossible to recollect what was placed in each home, and it would be almost impossible for the directors to supply this information to the workers. The safest way, then, to take up your work exactly where you left it at the instance of your last call is to canvass for the STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES, offering the 8-Volume combination. The HARP then will identify the books to those who have purchased it, and your references to the signs of the times will identify the books to those who have purchased booklets. It will also suggest to those who have purchased booklets the advantage of having the complete library in their homes; for if the booklet has contributed much to their comfort during the past year the library will contribute even more, because of the larger field that it serves.

Commendable Class Work

The results during 1925 have been achieved by the workers' meeting obstacles with greater confidence and with more determination to witness and raise a standard for the people. As each worker reflects upon the part he individually had, and may feel that it was a very small part as compared with great results, yet it was the assembling of such efforts on the

part of all that made this witness possible. It is only by the efforts of each individual that the work stands out with such wondrous results and with such promising prospects for the forthcoming year.

Of the classes who obtained the greatest results in the field the first thirty are listed herewith. In considering the classes to be so listed the first consideration was the percentage of the class members who are actively engaged in the service each week of the year. The second consideration was the results that the workers of these classes were obtaining. Consequently this list names the classes who had the largest percentage of workers in the field and whose workers were the most successful in placing the literature in the class territory.

First Thirty Classes in U. S. A.

1925

1. Tulsa, Okla.
2. Bayonne, N. J.
3. Bennett, Colo.
4. Brooklyn Bethel.
5. Wynnewood, Okla.
6. Bremerton, Wash.
7. New Brunswick, N. J.
8. Watertown, N. Y.
9. Abilene, Kans.
10. Duluth, Minn.
11. Lansing, Mich.
12. Nanticoke, Pa.
13. Lawrence, Mass.
14. Pittsburgh, Pa.
15. Los Angeles, Calif.
16. Plymouth, Mich.
17. Benton Harbor, Mich.
18. Endicott, N. Y.
19. Easton, Pa.
20. Mitchell, S. D.
21. Wilson, N. C.
22. Oil City, Pa.
23. Boise, Idaho.
24. Lancaster, Pa.
25. York, Pa.
26. Bloomfield, N. J.
27. Detroit, Mich.
28. Port Huron, Mich.
29. New Philadelphia, Ohio.
30. Reading, Pa.

From the correspondence received at the office our observations of the work of 1925 are that considered from the standpoint of the workers there is an increased zeal manifest and greater joy in their opportunities and privileges. The reports indicate that the interest in the truth is not confined to those who purchased the literature, but is generally manifest in the field as a whole; and that the calling from door to door demonstrates that the people are turning rapidly to the truth. Comparison of the reports received from the workers during 1925 with those of previous years, shows that the disposition of the people to have confidence in the truth has been gradual, each year showing a marked trend of interest toward the message; and though we might expect that the reasonableness and beauty of the truth would appeal to a greater number, yet this gradual turning is for our encouragement and it is this gradual growth of interest that holds forth such a promising view for 1926.

We trust that the Lord will greatly bless you during the forthcoming year, and that the opportunities for service will ever be on the increase, and that 1926 will provide you with the joy and blessings of the service that will permit you to rejoice in the Lord and to find great comfort in the blessedness of Zion.

With Christian greetings, we are

Your brethren and servants in the Lord,

Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society.

Service Dept.